



SFI Knowledge Catalyst — Connect with Students Impact Story

A Dynamic Solution

Swisscanto Invest by Zürcher Kantonalbank had a project that had been waiting in the wings for some time. When they enlisted the help of Master's degree student Lisa Mossi, they were counting on the upcoming results of her work.

Challenge

Having successfully used the SFI Knowledge Catalyst Program in the past, Swisscanto Invest by Zürcher Kantonalbank was looking for help with a project that needed someone with the right knowledge and enough time to tackle it. "Plenty of benchmarks are available for individual asset classes. But very few exist for a multi-asset portfolio and match the following criteria: diversified, investable, liquid, and with enough historical data. The main purpose of the Master's project was to construct a benchmark that we could use in the framework of a Black–Littermann model", explains Christophe-Pierre Lobisommer from Swisscanto Invest by Zürcher Kantonalbank. Finding the right person, though, was a challenge—"We needed someone with mathematical, finance, and IT knowledge."

Solution

With the help of SFI, a pool of candidates was assembled from various universities throughout Switzerland. After interviewing several, it became clear that University of Geneva Master's student Mossi was the perfect match, having knowledge of both wealth management and asset management. During the six months working on her thesis, Mossi developed a method for estimating a global market portfolio not only for the current month, but for all months since 1990, and then investigated the most efficient portfolio construction method.

Results

Mossi's method allows Swisscanto Invest by Zürcher Kantonalbank to update quickly and on a monthly basis a cross-asset market portfolio and to include the derived risk premia in its investment decisions. Mossi's work has been recognized internally as having other applications—cross-asset specialists, for instance, are using the new information to see where they're headed with regard to returns. What began as a project to meet a particular need has turned into a longer-term relationship. After Mossi completed her Master's thesis, she happily joined the Graduate Training Program at Swisscanto Invest by Zürcher Kantonalbank.



"We were looking for missing information. Lisa came in and contributed to meeting our needs."

Christophe-Pierre Lobisommer,
Head of Multi Asset Solutions, Models
& Processes at Swisscanto Invest by
Zürcher Kantonalbank.

SFI Knowledge Catalyst

The Knowledge Catalyst is a three-way project between a Master's or PhD student, a corporate partner, and a supervising SFI professor. Students are selected to conduct research projects for companies while being supervised by a dedicated member of SFI's academic faculty.

Contact

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